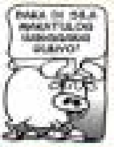
■ ACROSS/A18
2 elderly men watching Pacquiao do 'Battle' die of heart attack

■ NEWS/A7
Davide appointed presidential adviser on electoral reforms

■ NEWS/A2
Pilot steers plane away from populated area, dies in crash

■ METRO/A21
Police rescue Indian from kidnap gang; 1 suspect killed, 3 others arrested

Psychic sees GMA finishing term if she survives '666'



By Lalla B. Salaverria

IT MAY BE THE CHINESE Year of the Dog, man's best friend, but a Filipino psychic says 2006 belongs to the devil and is marked by betrayal.

One of the most promi-

PSYCHIC/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, January 25, 2006 · 6 sections · Vol. 21 · No. 48

Pacquiao hot on ebay from his jackets to posters

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—FILIPINO BOXING HERO MANNY Pacquiao is hot.

In fact, the excitement that Pacquiao generated from stopping Mexican fighter Erik Morales on Sunday has spilled over to ebay, the online American auction store.

PACQUIAO/A4



A HERO DIED HERE. Capt. Arriane Amatong struggled to steer his crippled aircraft, a fixed-wing two-engine OV-10 (inset), away from residential houses in Barangay Binakod, Paombong, Bulacan and crashed to his death in a fishpond early Tuesday morning. Amatong's last words were orders for his copilot Capt. James Acosta to eject. The pilots were on their way to Clark, Pampanga, for aerial combat exercises with US troops. (Story on Page A2.)

Council scraps 'No-El'

GMA forms commission to rally support for changes in Charter

By Christine O. Avendaño

AT THE MEETING OF the Council of State boycotted by the opposition, supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday agreed to proceed with elections next year while moving to adopt the parliamentary system of government.

The majority of the council participants, including former President Fidel V. Ramos, expressed the need to go ahead with the 2007 election for local governments, congressmen and half of the 24-member Senate.

"The ratio of those who talked is 4:1 more or less, four being in favor of just maintaining the system and holding of the elections," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Briefing reporters later, Ms Arroyo announced the appointment of newly retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as presidential adviser on electoral reforms to clean up the corruption-tainted Commission on Elections (See story on Page 7).

Ms Arroyo announced the council had agreed to form a Charter change advocacy commission that would launch a P9-million information campaign on the moves to amend the 1987 Constitution.

COUNCIL/A20

Gov't eyes sale of more Marcos loot for CARP

By Blanche S. Rivera

AFTER USING UP NEARLY ALL OF THE P35 billion in Swiss bank deposits in just two years, the Arroyo administration is eyeing the sale of other ill-gotten assets of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos worth P46 billion, including a block of PLDT shares valued at P22 billion, to fund the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Land Bank of the Philippines will also intensify their collection of land amortization payments from farmer beneficiaries of the CARP to raise an additional P40 billion, Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Jeffrey Gulan said yesterday.

Gulan said there was greater pressure on the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to dispose of the Marcos assets such as real estate, sequestered media networks and shares of stock to support the government's land distribution program.

"The PCGG should match its disposition

GOV'T/A4



THE BIG 3. Even before Charter change and other hotly debated related issues, prayer tops the agenda of the Council of State meeting on Tuesday at the Palace. President Arroyo flanked by Vice President Noli de Castro and former President Ramos creates a 15-member Charter change advocacy commission. In his opening remarks De Castro urges the council to heed Pacquiao's victory wish for Filipinos to be united. Ramos says a no-election scenario is a disaster waiting to happen.

AFP: Junior officers being recruited for coup

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER CONFIRMING ON MONDAY THE existence of a threat against President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration, the Armed Forces yesterday revealed that junior officers were being recruited for a coup d'etat.

Military spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison also said the AFP leadership was convinced that an "orchestrated" plot to unseat Ms Arroyo was in existence because of successive events that transpired last week.

Kison said military commanders got wind of the recruitment activity sometime around Jan. 19.

He claimed that the recruitment was discovered in "some areas in the Visayas and in Mindanao," but that the activity had not reached Luzon and the capital.

"Toward the end of last week," military commanders reported "a recruitment among junior officers in the field for what could be a coup d'etat," Kison said.

"They were alarmed," he added.

But Kison said the AFP had yet to pinpoint those behind the alleged coup plot. "Our commanders have not positively identified them."

AFP/A10

COMING HOME

Streets a window to Filipino soul

By Fernando del Mundo

(last of 3 parts)

FOR ALL THEIR INGENUITY, FILIPINOS HAVE yet to come up with the proper tar formula. Asphalt roads melt under a rain.

The narrow highways in Rwanda in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa were sturdier. They were laid on by the late President Juvenal Habyarimana at around the outset of Ferdinand Marcos's martial law rule in 1972.

They had remained a sight to behold in the misty Land of a Thousand Hills until 1994 when Habyarimana was killed in a mysterious plane crash that ignited the genocide of 800,000 minority Tutsis by machete-wielding Hutus. Under incessant pounding by 10-wheeler trucks delivering urgently needed humanitarian aid to displaced Rwandans, the roads began to crumble.

If highways could be built to endure in one of the world's poorest countries, there's no reason why it could not be done here.

The Pan Philippine Highway that Marcos built did not last very long, at least those stretches I traveled before I left in the early 1980s.

Traffic in the capital is bad, but it's not as messed up as in Tehran or Cairo.

STREETS/A20

2 Pinays have lock on wrestler's heart

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DO NOT JUDGE THIS BOOK BY its menacing cover.

Underneath the scraggly hair and the 280 pounds packed in a lumbering 6-foot-2 frame, champion wrestler Mick Foley has a soft spot for the Philippines.

Foley, a three-time World Wrestling Entertainment champion and three-time tag team champion with The Rock, told the Inquirer in an interview at Gateway Mall over the weekend that it was a little girl from the Philippines who inspired him to be a better person.

Actually, she was the second

2 PINAYS/A20



CHAMPION of health and education of poor kids since 1992, world wrestling champ Mike Foley is featured in the World Wrestling Entertainment Raw Live Tour on Feb. 24-25 at the Araneta Coliseum.

President to appoint 54 generals

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

LOYALTY TO THE CONSTITUTION and the Commander in Chief will be the deciding factors when President Macapagal-Arroyo chooses the successors to the military brass due to retire in the next 12 months, Malacañang said yesterday.

The large-scale retirement is expected to further strengthen Ms Arroyo's grip on the Armed Forces, deemed crucial at this time of persistent coup rumors and questionable military loyalty.

According to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, "the President cannot afford to have some of her generals, especially those

PRESIDENT/A10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Misuari granted medical leave

By Tara V. Quismundo and Armand N. Nocum

JAILED MORO REBEL LEADER NUR MISUARI would soon be out of detention for a health check, as a Makati court yesterday granted him a medical furlough.

'EJECT! EJECT!'

AFP pilot dies a hero as plane goes down

By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk



SURVIVOR: Capt. James Acosta, co-pilot of the ill-fated Air Force plane, is airlifted to Villamor Air Base. He survived the crash after he ejected just in time.

IN THE KNOW

SUBIC RAPE CASE

Palace can't just abrogate VFA; usec explains why

By Volt Contreras and Christian V. Esguerra

7-year-old pact

'Sense of fairness and justice'

Fraport sale of Piatco stake to Yap's Manila Hotel in peril

[illegible]







Gov't eyes sale of more Marcos loot for CARP

Two years vs 2 decades

Show list of beneficiaries

GMA rice program

Ortigas lot, TV stations

Beneficiaries' debts

Pacquiao hot ...

Jacket

Chrome lighter

Wristbands ignored

Singson gives side


Will your new car
come with
P1,000,000?
Fast Car,
Fast Cash
You're in good hands with
METROBANK
PSBank

Sandigan denies Erap's bail petition

Land registry chief can't feign ignorance, staffers say

Pimentel still wants P1.3B back

Another Magdalo officer claims he escaped

5 Magdalo escapees put on hold-departure list

Cha-cha starts in Congress with bid to revive Sabah claim

Davide named adviser on poll reforms



DAVIDE

Ex-SC chief to address bishops on nat'l situation

House committee OKs budget

An Appeal to President Gloria Macagapal Arroyo for the Release of the Names of West Negros College Nursing Examinees

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace, Manila,
Philippines

Dear Madam President:

In behalf of the December 2005 nursing examinees of West Negros College whose names and examination results were withheld by the Professional Regulatory Commission or PRC, we are writing this letter to appeal to your good office to intervene in our behalf for the release of our names. More than a month had passed from the release of the results of the 2005 December Nursing Licensure Examination, and yet we have not received any communication from PRC as to the status of our examination results nor are we in the pass or fail list. We all feel that it is our right to know the results regardless whether we have passed or not in the examination so that we can plan and move ahead with our lives.

Representations have been made by our school and meeting between PRC and the Commission on Higher Education or CHED had been done, yet nothing definite came out of it. What is sad to note is that we have not received any written communication from PRC informing us of the reason why our names were not released and whenever we call the PRC Office no definite answer was given.

Until now what we have are hearsays that the reason for the withholding of our names is due to subject overloading. However, if this is the case, the approval of the overloading is delegated by CHED to the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as per CHED Memorandum No. 1?7 series of 2001, a copy of which is attached. This circular has authorized the dean of the school to approve overloads of students, subject sequencing, substitution and accreditation of units earned. This is the very reason why CHED had issued our S.O. or special order that qualifies us to take the nursing examination. Granting without admitting that there may be requirements not complied; it would be just and proper for PRC to inform us so that we can make the necessary action.

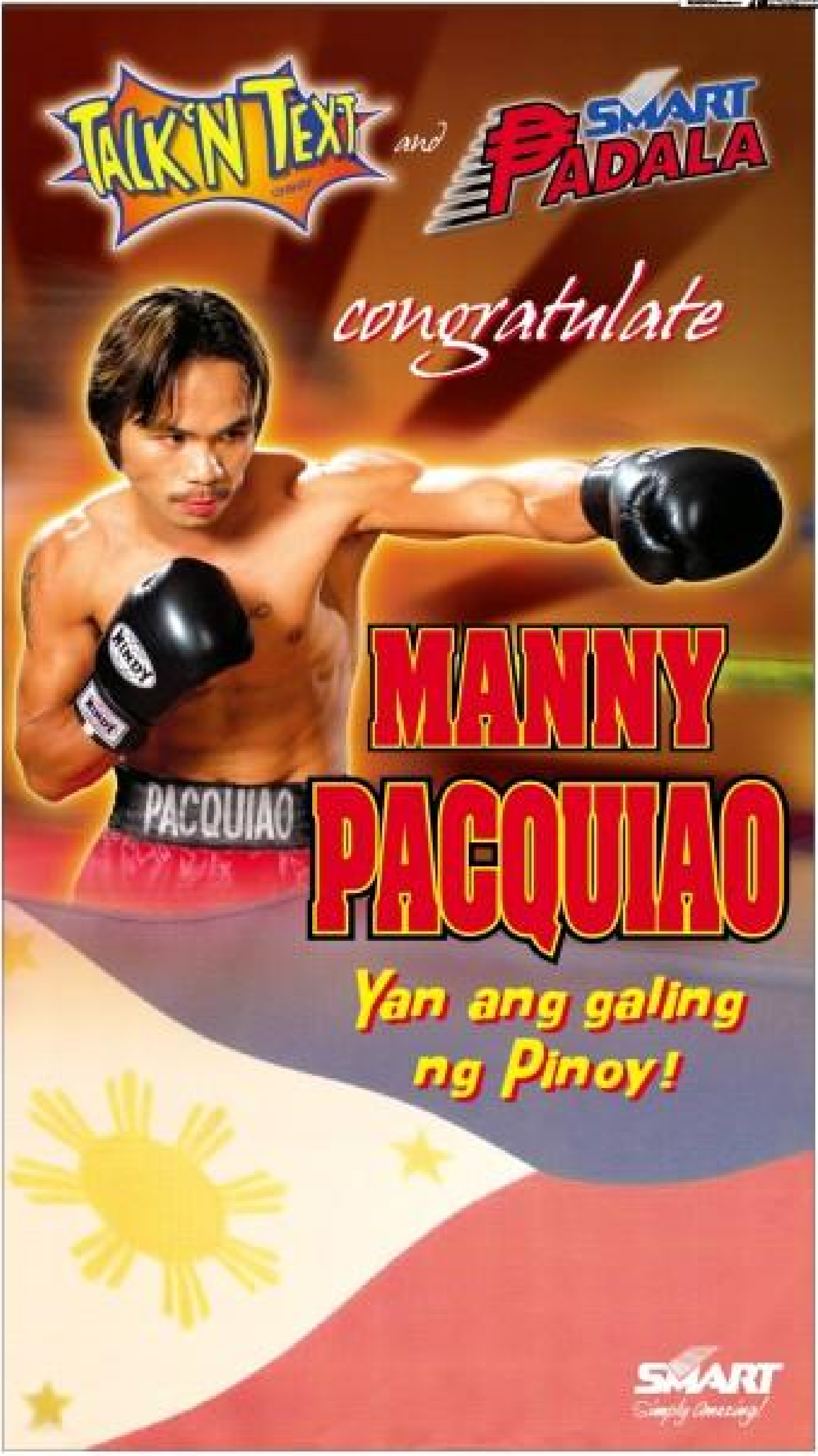
Up to this moment we are still in the dark. Therefore, we appeal to you Madam President to help us. We have studied so hard, made sacrifices with our families, spent time and money for tuitions just to be able to graduate and take the board examination so that we can become registered nurses. Becoming a nurse would not only give us a brighter professional advancement both here and abroad but also will enable us to help fulfill our moral duty to help our country in earning dollars that could boost our economy. In addition this will give our families decent lives and secure the future of our children. Delaying the results would deprive not only us of these chances but also our country and our fellowmen in favor of other nationalities aspiring to take advantage of the opportunities in the demand for nurses abroad.

It has been a long and anxious wait for us and this has affected our lives, our work and our families. The mental anguish, sleepless nights and pain that we have gone through in the past days could not be measured and no amount of money can compensate for this ordeal. While we believe that we are trying to do our best for our family and for our country we are in a quandary why a government agency stands between what we aspire for. As nurses, we intend to uphold the dignity and respect that Filipino professionals deserve. We have sought all avenues to seek remedies for this, yet to no avail. We feel that we have been judged, convicted and sentenced without due process, thus this desperate appeal to your sense of justice. We hope that through this letter you will empathize with us and hear our plea for assistance and expedite the release of our nursing examination results.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

December 2005 West Negros College Nursing Examinees



TALK 'N TEXT
and
SMART PADALA
congratulate
MANNY PACQUIAO
Yan ang galing ng Pinoy!
PACQUIAO
SMART
Simply Amazing!

AFP: Junior officers being recruited for coup

Threat

Orchestrated

First time

Put up or shut up

President to appoint 54 generals

Service reputation

'Using no fools'

Psychic sees GMA finishing term ...

Uncanny predictions

Year of traitors

Potential contenders

Both sexes susceptible

Big earthquakes?

The WORLD

Russia reopens gas dispute with Ukraine

MOSCOW—RUSSIA REOPENED ITS GAS ROW WITH UKRAINE ON Monday as the Russian state monopoly Gazprom all but accused Kiev again of stealing gas and reducing onward supplies to Europe.

4 British diplomats accused of espionage



Pinochet's wife, kids arrested

Montenegro train crash kills 39

WorldBriefs

Canada's Liberals ousted

7 Taliban rebels escape

Livedoor CEO arrested

White House starts eavesdropping defense











INQUIRER

OPINION



Suicidal provocation

EDITORIAL

Manny Pacquiao for president!

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

A politician for all seasons

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

Reflections on Pacquiao, Council of State

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Doc L

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Why women (still) die from cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Who was Madame de Block?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Poor schoolboy who dreamed and caught the biggest star

Police should watch out for 'criminals on wheels'

LETTERS

Don't look, do something

NEA's CMT additional burden to electric cooperatives' members

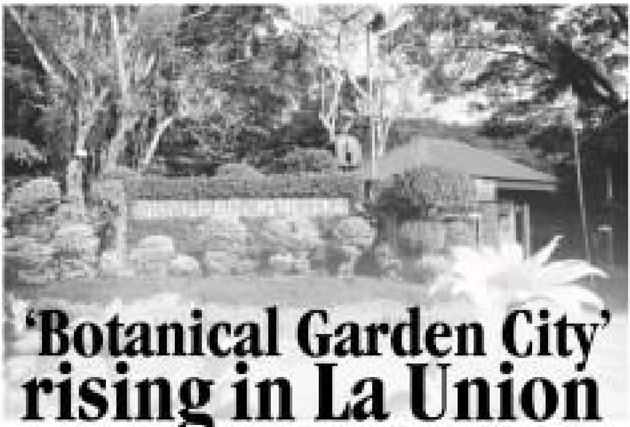
Help mend this broken nation

Courting the critics

COMMENTARY

Ismael G. Khan Jr.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon



'Botanical Garden City' rising in La Union



RAPTOR Mary Jane Ortega's dream aviary

THE La Union Botanical Garden has become San Fernando City's center of attraction in La Union, offering ecological tours and field trips.

SOMEWHERE IN SAN FERnando City in La Union is a ... garden ... with thousands of species of forest and fruit-bearing trees, vines, shrubs, flowering plants, weeds and all sorts of vegetation.

FAST FACTS

From zoo to garden

Sharing a vision

Ecological tours

Research center

Japanese volunteer

Across the NATION



Visayas, Mindanao lotto outlets take own jackpot: Record sales

2 Pacquiao fans die of heart attack

WATCHING THE FIGHT OF FILIPINO BOXING hero Manny Pacquiao against Mexican Eric Morales in Las Vegas last Sunday proved too much for two elderly fans in Pagadian City and a town in Negros Occidental.

'Agaton' leaves thousands in ports stranded



AVID FAN

Soldier killed in Samar NPA ambush

NPA admits failure in attack on outpost

ROUNDUP

Man admits killing teenagers

Murder suspect hunted

Hostage taker yields



3 dead in smashup

Resolution on mining



Suspected gang leader nabbed

Rob-slay suspect nabbed

Village leader shot dead

Carry on Cavaliers



"The night no matter how long will inevitably end in dawn."

Like others who spent a major part of their life in the military, I am saddened and devastated by what's happening to our country and to our institution today.

The young men who entered the Service full of idealism, in whose hearts were hammered the virtues of honesty, honor, patriotism and integrity, now find themselves torn between duty to the people they are mandated to protect, and an imposed loyalty to a leadership perceived as no longer loved nor trusted by the people.

And the institution! Now widely seen as slowly being undone, razed to the dust of people's contempt by the dirty hands of politics and power brokers. I, for one support you, our young cavaliers. Doing what you have done because you believe standing up for the people is superior mandate to bowing to the will of the authority whose legitimacy is in serious doubt is a difficult decision to make. But you made it. Boldly. With no thought of consequences. Guided solely by your feeling for the welfare of the people and your institution.

They have thrown the book at you for breaching the Chain-of-Command. Did you?

The principle of the Chain-of-Command is to hold the military in strictest and steadfast discipline the better for it to fulfill its constitutional duty as the guardian and protector of the people. Chain-of-Command is not meant to be put around the neck to strangle and restrain legitimate and constructive dissent and kill sound and meritorious ideas that do not please or serve the interest of those at the top.

If the depth of dishonor this Administration has sunk our beloved institution appalls you, it does me a hundred times. Congressional investigation on the use of the military, its men and resources, in the 2004 election, reveals the deliberate commission of sacrilege and travesty of the sacred tradition of our institution.

I fully understand your concern, discontent and disgust about the manner the political leadership is manhandling the military. Like you, I want the institution I belong to to be admired and trusted and looked up with respect by the people.

But despair not. Cavaliers, young and old and retired. The night no matter how long will inevitably end in dawn. Struggle on. Keep faith. Implore Divine guidance. And when the night is gone and dawn has come we will join hands and, together with the people who believe in real, genuine and peaceful change, repair the damage done to our lives, our careers, and our institutions. And resolve, **NEVER AGAIN.**

God bless, Cavaliers, and carry on!

Major General Fortunato U. Abat (Ret.)



Council scraps 'No-El'

ConCom to join campaign

Issues not understood

99 percent for 2007 polls

Heed Pacquiao's wish

Senators against Cha-cha



2 Pinays have lock on champion wrestler's heart

Feb. 24-25 at Araneta

Started with an ad

Special ties

Childhood center

Wrestler's money

Warmth of Pinoys

Streets a window to Filipino soul

Traffic rules a joke

Corrida in Manila

Speed maniacs

Chivalry reigns ...

... but not on Ayala

Thugs as traffic cops

Balkan wars

On coming home

METRO

Trader rescued from abductors



By Luige A. del Puerto and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Grandma killed, 5 hurt in Las Piñas blaze

By Jocelyn R. Uy



COOKING ON EDGE

Birds find new home in Manila orphanage

Regular watch

Anti-drugs course for Metro graders

Theme

MetroBriefs

File complaint, victims told



Not once, but twice

Help for the poor

Arellano High induction

Acting UE president named



GARCIA

Ely Lopez burial

Plug N' Play Your Own Contact Center

Call Centers: What You Should Know





POC tackles which NSAs to prioritize

I'm the storm across the Pacific–Pacquiao



La Salle officials split on UAAP pullout

Barako eye series equalizer vs Gins

NO TEAM FEELS AT home whenever it tangles with Barangay Ginebra. And Red Bull Barako is no exception.



PBA imposes fines on erring players, of

Pacquiao's win eases MVP pain

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Manila unveils sports program



La Salle gains ground in interscholastics golf

RACING TIPS

SPORTSWATCH

2nd Blas F. Ople golf tournament

GCAP 5-cock derby begins today

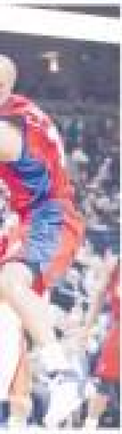
Fastest Win event starts Sunday

Super Pacman joins PCCA tourney

Bata enjoys second wind with new vision

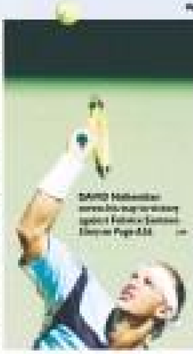






Harbour Centre's Reyes PBL Player of the Week

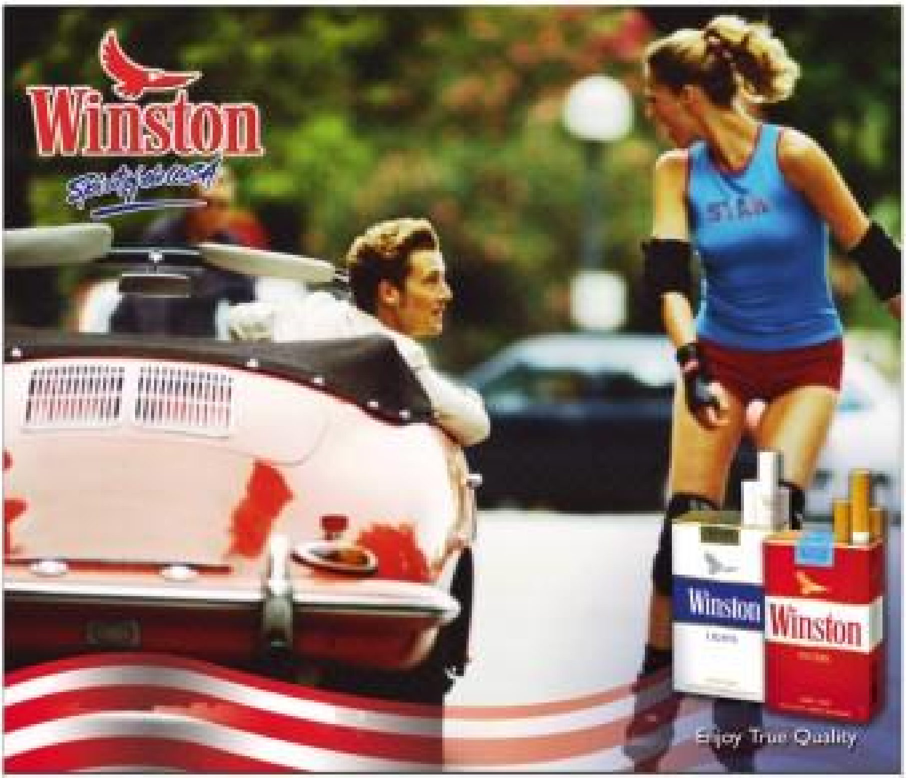
I'm the storm across the Pacific—Pacquiao



RP Open Badminton first to adopt new scoring rule

fficials



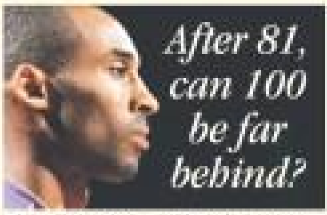


Sharapova gets through tough quarters match



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—TOUGH wind, tough opponent, tough challenger: Maria Sharapova got through it all Tuesday to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the second straight year.

NFL: All eyes on Pittsburgh QB



Nothing new about these, but they're very entertaining

1 Lessons from a deadly game

Review



2 Bittersweet memories



The first boxoffice winner of 2006

UNDERWORLD tops the U.S. and int'l boxoffice charts



INTERNATIONAL BOXOFFICE

ENTERTAINMENT



Birthday boy in Boys' Town

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photo by Romy Hombrebueno

MATINEE IDOL RICHARD Gutierrez could not hide his surprise when reporters and cameramen rushed to him as he stepped out of his van on Saturday afternoon.

BIRTHDAY A2-6

Opening Today



Big Time

The Maid

OPENING A2-6

Fitting tribute to Edsa Revolution

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

'Laudis Seven'

Nothing new about these, but they're very entertaining

1 Lessons from a deadly game

Review



"LITTLE Manhattan"

2 Bittersweet memories



"ZATHURA: A Space Adventure"

The first boxoffice winner of 2006

UNDERWORLD tops the U.S. and int'l boxoffice charts



INTERNATIONAL BOXOFFICE

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

That same night, Richard and his twin brother, Raymond, held a very exclusive bash. Guests were given keys to the private party place

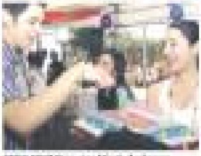




Birthday boy . . .





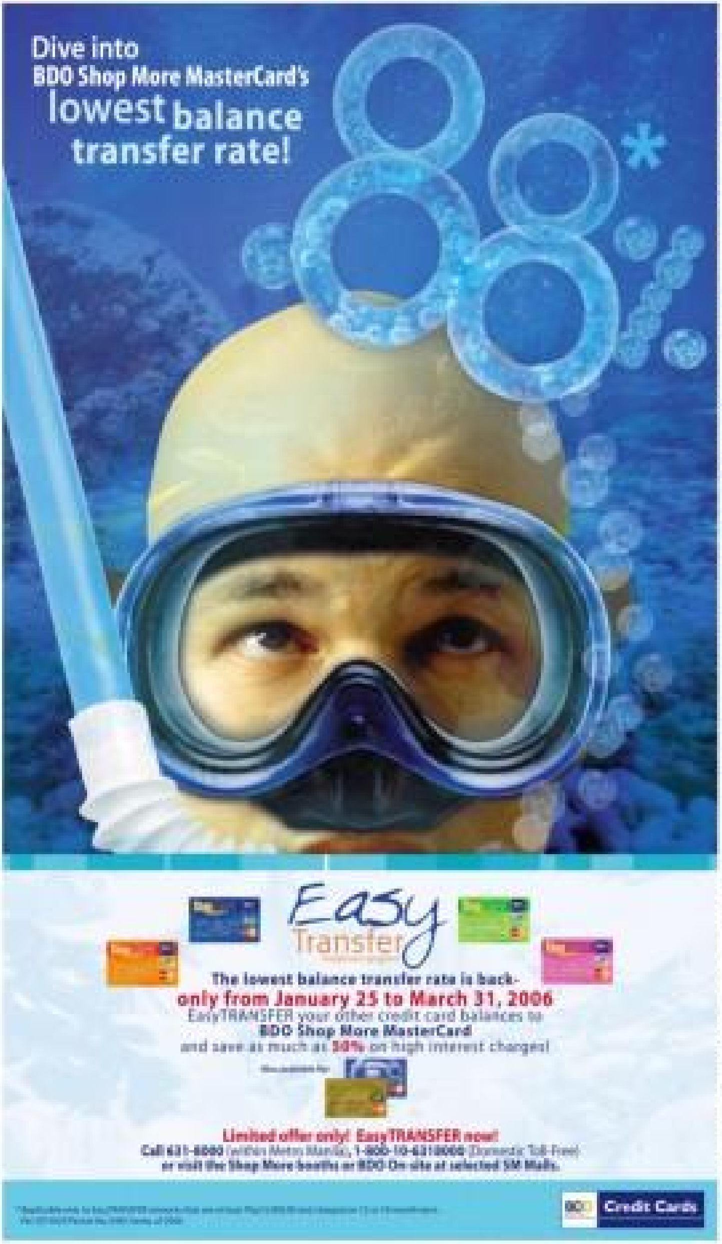


Opening Today

Cheaper by the Dozen 2

Zathura

Half Light



BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Yield of long-term treasury bonds tumble



CRUZ

Favorable budget figures to keep interest rates low

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 25-YEAR borrowings dropped by more than 1 percentage point yesterday following the market's substantial requirement for long-term investments.

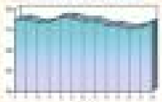
The rate for the 25-year treasury bonds breached the 12-percent mark and fell by 1.25 basis points (1.25 percentage points) to only 11.25 percent. The rate for the 25-year bonds stood at 12.5 percent during its previous auction in July 2005.

[illegible]

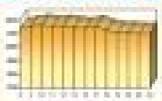
TREAS B4

'Sin' tax fails to boost revenue

[illegible]



STOCK MARKET



Stocks up slightly

[illegible]

Insurance undercurrents

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Mitsubishi gallantry

Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

First Pacific to raise stake in PLDT, eyes PTIC shares

Philam Plans soars amidst challenges

Stocks up slightly

DISCLOSURES

PNB mulls over expansion of remittance unit

Japan firms' confidence in RP slightly up

Business sentiment for Asean 5 also improved, with Thailand in the lead



Gokongwei firms out to regain market darling status

PLDT, NTT to offer instant messaging

Yield of long-term . . .

Capital raised through IPOs hit P55.5B in '05

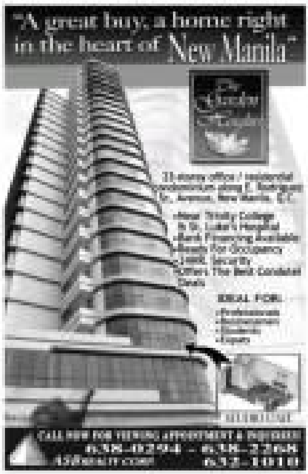
Biggest since the '97 Asian financial crisis, says PSE chief



Palace OKs P800-M Clark terminal expansion

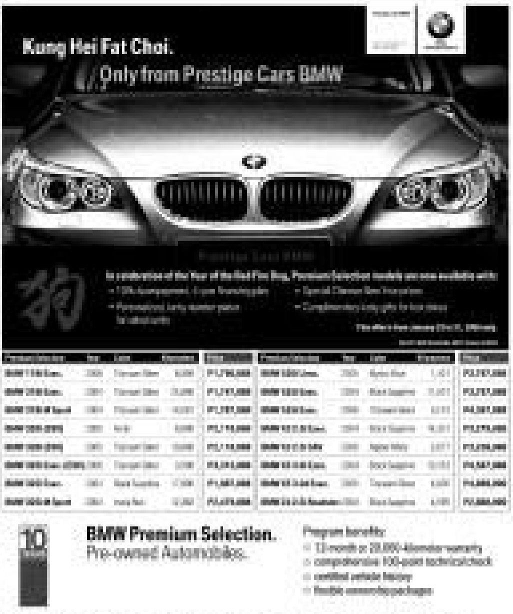
Inflation seen to remain stable

Business upbeat on economy



Dutch bank eyes RP as BPO hub

Ecozone exports up 6.% in '05



MOTORING





Automakers see 5% sales increase

By Tessa R. Salazar

Free trade agreement

Likely to continue

Most functional models

What makes the road rough for automakers

By Tessa R. Salazar

'Gray' market

Repeal of 70% cap

Several options

Scoop: RAV4 unveiled tonight; Galant, too

Full Tank



Al Mendoza







Yamaha's Spark 135 embarks on 5-nation Asean tour

Tall and taller

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



A custom of feedback

MY DRIFT



Driving on the edge of style with 2006 Porsche Boxster



PORSCHE BOXSTER

Auto service shop goes high-tech

RP plans to tap $854M in ODAs

Combination of program loans, technical assistance

2bU LIFESTYLE



Events that shaped the '90s

Who would have thought a sheep named Dolly would alter the course of science?

By [illegible]
2bU Correspondent

IN THE '90S, while kids fiddled with Tamagotchis or went around the block in rollerblades, adults and teens were glued to the television watching events unfold.

Some of these would alter the course of history, some would end up mere fodder for gossip. But for better or for worse, they changed the world as we know it.

1990

[illegible] to 12-hour brownouts. Who could forget the blackouts that rudely interrupted episodes of "[illegible]"? Every household in the Philippines wrapped up

EVENTS C3

Step-by-step skincare that works



Lora Gabol

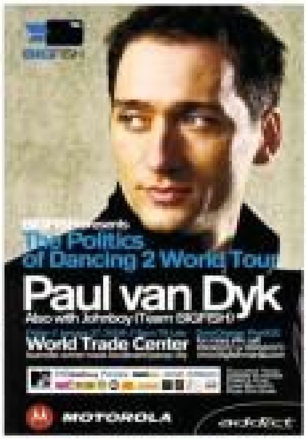
Depending on your own skin concerns, the many promising beauty sets in the market today will definitely do your complexion good



MURAD's Energizing Pomegranate Cleanser

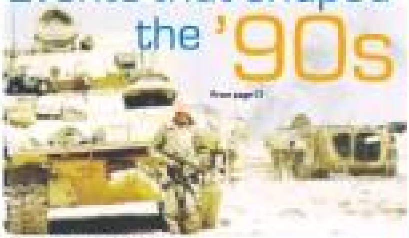


MURAD Acne Complex kit





Events that shaped the '90s



1991

1992

1993



1994

1995

1996

1997



1998

1999

Those unforgettable thingamajigs

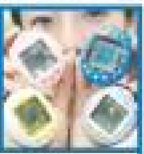


HEROES in a half shell (above) and the colorful world of Lisa Frank (below)

Tamagotchi

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Lisa Frank





Pogs



HAW Flakes

Cheap young thrills

What do Texas, Bazooka and Big Boy have in common? They were our sinful pleasures in the innocent past



WHITE Rabbit







FANTA